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CA 2372856 A1 2003/08/22

(21) 2 372 856

(12) DEMANDE DE BREVET CANADIEN
CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION

(13) A1

(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2002/02/22

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2003/08/22

(51) Cl.Int.⁷/Int.Cl.⁷ A47G 29/122

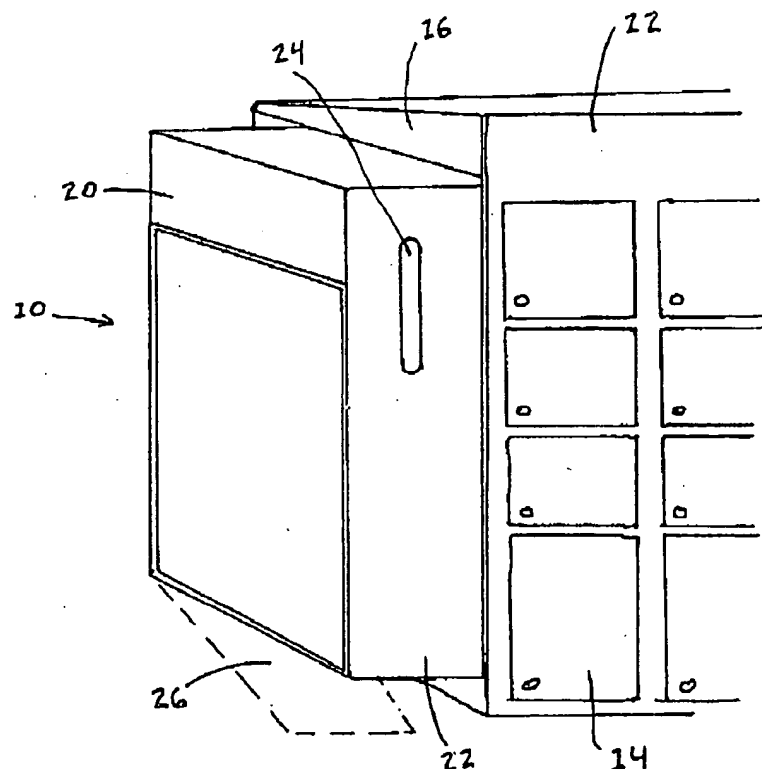
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(54) Titre : BOITE DE RECYCLAGE DE PAPIER POUR BOITE AUX LETTRES

(54) Title: PAPER RECYCLING RECEPTACLE FOR MAILBOXES



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The present invention is directed to a receptacle for collection and disposal of fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail at a bank of mailboxes location. The receptacle includes a housing connected to a surface of the bank of mailboxes. The housing is provided with a slot or opening to enable fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail to pass therethrough. The housing includes a means for discharging the contents of the housing into a suitable recyclable paper collection bin.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to a receptacle for collection and disposal of fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail at a bank of mailboxes location. The receptacle includes a housing connected to a surface of the bank of mailboxes. The housing is provided with a slot or opening to enable fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail to pass therethrough. The housing includes a means for discharging the contents of the housing into a suitable recyclable paper collection bin.

TITLE: PAPER RECYCLING RECEPTACLE FOR MAILBOXESFIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is directed to a receptacle for mailboxes to enable unwanted mail to be easily recycled.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVNETION

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In recent years the use of mailboxes, particularly for delivery of residential mail, has become prevalent. The problem associated with these mailboxes is that, as recipients receive fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail, the recipient may simply discard the unwanted mail at the mailbox. This can create significant litter problem at the location of the mailboxes. In some areas trash receptacles for the unwanted mail are provided at the location of the mailboxes. The use of such trash receptacles however, may not completely solve the problem as the contents of the trash receptacles may be disposed of in the regular garbage stream leading to wastage of potentially recyclable material. In addition, many such receptacles are open and may be subject to accidental spillage thus giving rise to the continuing litter problems. The use of traditional receptacles such as garbage cans may also be not very aesthetically pleasing at the location of the mailboxes.

30 There thus remains a need for a solution to the problem of disposal of fliers and other unwanted mail at mailboxes which will overcome the above noted difficulties.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a receptacle for collection and disposal of fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail at a bank of mailboxes location. The receptacle includes a housing connected to a surface of the bank of mailboxes. The housing is provided with a slot or opening to enable fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail to pass therethrough. The housing includes a means for discharging the contents of the housing into a suitable recyclable paper collection bin.

In an aspect of the invention the receptacle includes a container contained within the housing for holding the fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail.

In another aspect of the invention the housing is provided with a hinged bottom that is releasably lockable to allow the bottom to be opened to discharge the contents of the housing into a suitable recyclable paper collection bin.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention are illustrated in the attached drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bank of mailboxes having the receptacle of the present invention attached to the side thereof;

Figure 2 is a front elevation view of the bank of mailboxes of figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a side elevation view of the bank of mailboxes of figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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A preferred embodiment of the receptacle of the present invention is illustrated in the attached figures generally indicated by the number 10. The receptacle 10 is shown attached to the side of a bank of mailboxes 12. 10 The bank of mailboxes 12 are comprised of a number of individual mailboxes 14 each of which is assigned to an individual recipient. The bank of mailboxes 12 shown in the attached figures are those typically used in Canada and provided by Canada Post under the name SUPERMAILBOX. 15 It will be appreciated however that other arrangements of banks of mailboxes are usable with the receptacle of the present invention.

The receptacle 10 has a housing 20 which is attached 20 to a surface of the bank of mailboxes 12. In the embodiment illustrated in the figures, the receptacle 10 is attached to the side 16 of the bank of mailboxes 12 although it will be appreciated as will be described below, that the receptacle 10 may be attached to other 25 surfaces of the bank of mailboxes 12.

The housing 20 is generally rectangular in shape having a front face 22 with a slot or opening 24 therein to receive fliers and the other unwanted pieces of mail 30 and allow the pieces of mail to pass through the opening 24 into the interior of the receptacle 10. In a preferred embodiment, the faces of the housing visible to a person obtaining their mail are provided with a means of displaying advertising thereon. The means for

displaying advertising is preferably a sleeve into which the advertising may be placed. More preferably, the sleeve is provided with a locking means whereby the sleeve is not accessible to an ordinary user of the housing. Alternatively, the housing faces containing the advertising may be of a transparent material and the sleeve for the advertising may be provided in the interior surface of the face.

10 One of the faces of the receptacle 10 is provided with a means of opening to allow the material within the receptacle to be removed for proper disposal. In the embodiment illustrated in the figures, the bottom 26 of the receptacle 10 is the surface of the receptacle which is able to be opened. Bottom 26 is attached to the back surface 28 of the receptacle 10 by means of a hinge 30 along the rear edge of the bottom 26. The bottom 26 is provided with a means of releasably locking the front portion of the bottom 26 to the front face 22 of the receptacle 10. Alternatively, the side or front face may be provided with the means of opening in the manner described above.

25 The receptacle 10 is utilized by the recipients of the mail to allow for disposal of fliers and other unwanted pieces of mail in a neat and tidy manner. The recipient of the mail places the flyer or other unwanted piece of mail into the receptacle 10 by passing the mail through the opening 24 in the front face 22. The contents of the receptacle 10 may be disposed of by providing a suitable bin for containing recyclable paper material and opening the bottom 26 to allow the contents of the receptacle 10 to drop into the recycling bin. The

recycling bin is then transported to a suitable recycling center.

5 In a preferred embodiment the receptacle 10 of the present invention is provided with an internal bin which contains and holds the material placed into the receptacle 10. When it is desired to empty the receptacle 10, the openable surface of the receptacle 10 is opened and the bin removed from within the housing.
10 The bin may then be emptied into a container for recyclable materials and then placed back into the housing or alternatively the empty bin may be exchanged within the housing for the full bin.

15 As described above the receptacle the present invention may be attached to other surfaces of the bank of mailboxes other than that illustrated. For example, the receptacle may be attached to the bottom of the bank of mailboxes in the central location. Alternatively the
20 bank of mailboxes may be provided as illustrated in the figures with two receptacles, one on either side of the bank of mailboxes. In yet another embodiment, the receptacle may be provided with support legs extending downwardly from the lower corners of the receptacle to
25 provide further support for the receptacle.

Although various preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that
30 variations may be made thereto without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A receptacle for collection and disposal of fliers
and other unwanted pieces of mail at a bank of mailboxes
5 location, the receptacle comprising a housing connected
to a surface of the bank of mailboxes, the housing being
provided with a slot or opening to enable fliers and
other unwanted pieces of mail to pass therethrough, the
housing including a means for discharging the contents of
10 the housing into a suitable recyclable paper collection
bin.
2. The receptacle according to claim 1 wherein the
receptacle includes a container contained within the
15 housing for holding the fliers and other unwanted pieces
of mail.
3. The receptacle according to claim 1 wherein the
housing is provided with a hinged bottom that is
20 releasably lockable to allow the bottom to be opened to
discharge the contents of the housing into a suitable
recyclable paper collection bin.

Application number/ Numéro de demande : #2372856

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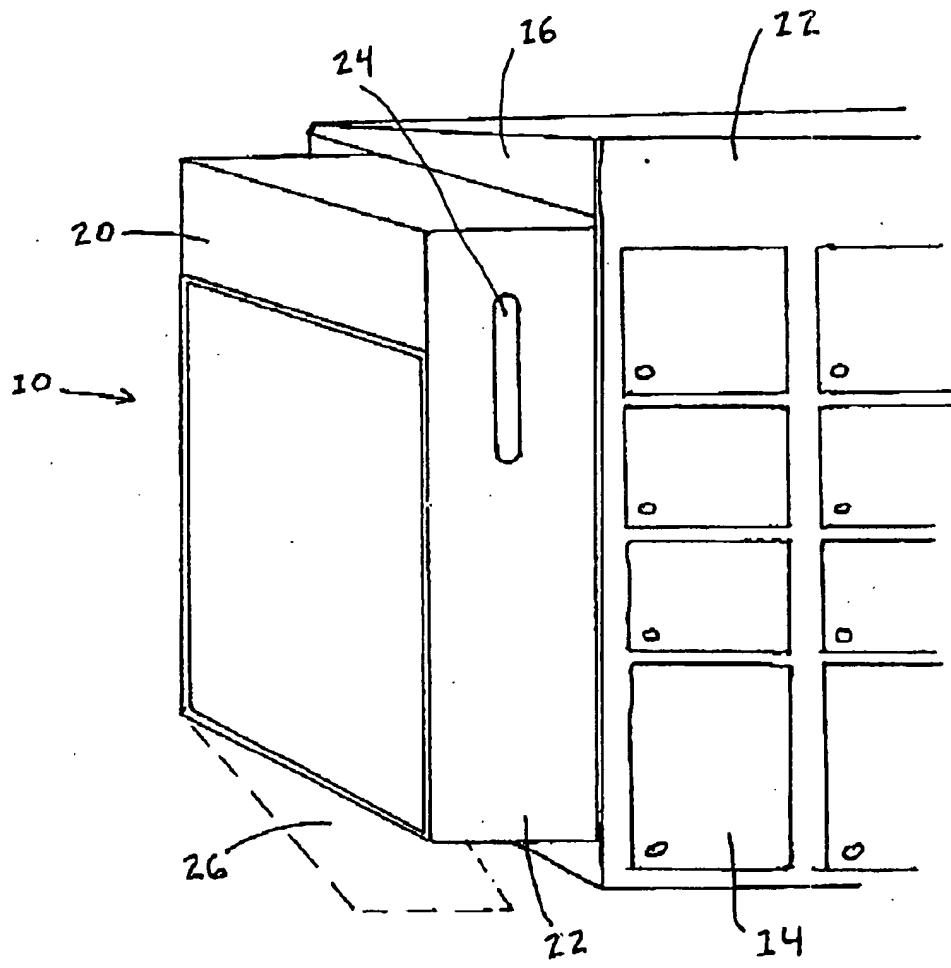
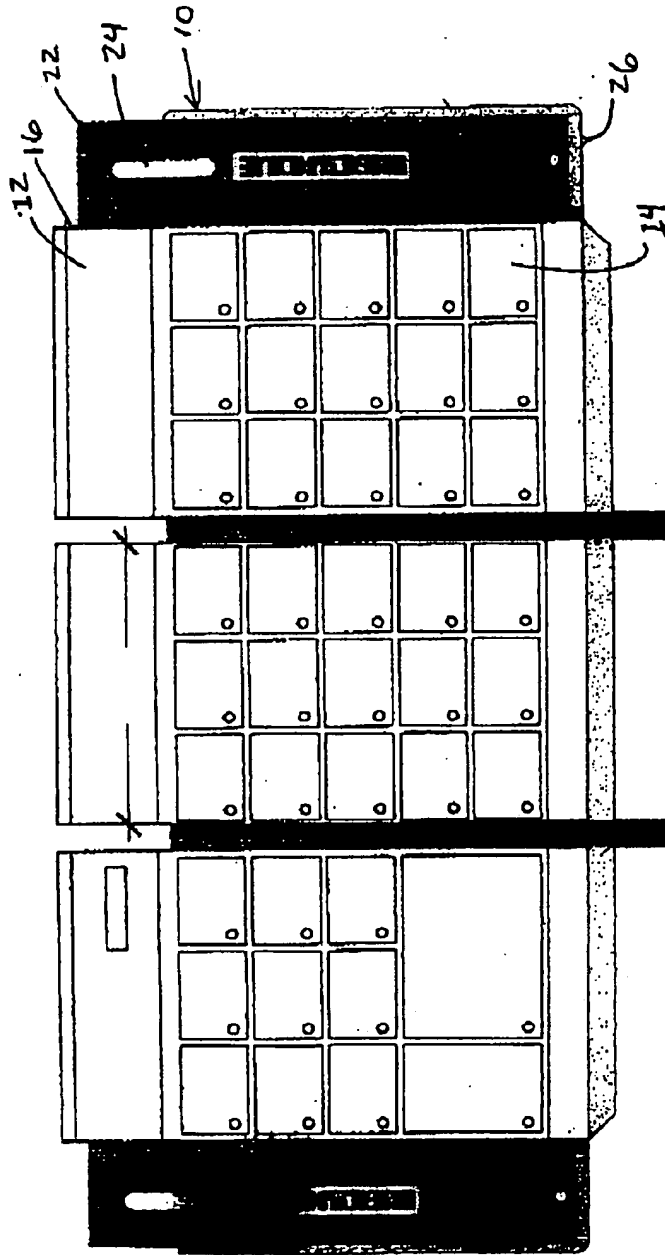


FIG 1



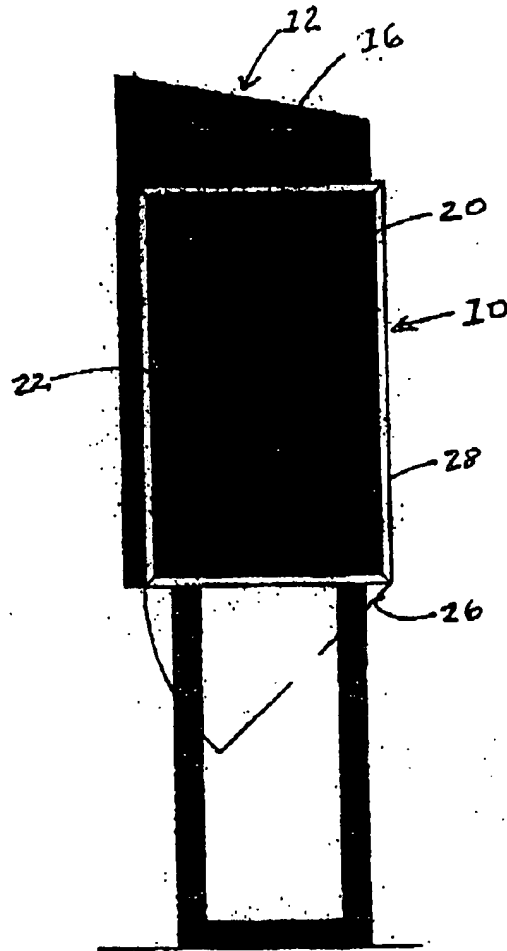


FIG 3

